accorded Priority-I along with the retrenched employees of the Government. Further upto 2 members each of the families of Defence Service Personnel killed or severely disabled, whether during war or peace time, are given priority immediately below the disabled ex-servicemen i.e. Priority IIA. Disabled Defence Service Personnel are also eligible for relaxation in age and educational qualifications.

(b) The following number of Disabled Soldiers were given employment during the last 3 years:—

1987	1988	1989
290	89	54

(c) Re-employment of Disabled ex-Servicemen is a continuing process. Since there number is not static and as the employment process is handled by various Central Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, State Governments etc., based on the number of available vacancies, no specific time frame for their re-employment can be laid down.

Unused forest land in Andhra Pradesh

3134. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large area of forest land in Andhra Pradesh is lying unused;

(b) if so, the estimated area of forest land in Andhra Pradesh, and out of it the estimated area lying unused;

(c) whether Government have chalked out the programme; for utilisation of unused forest land, if so, the details thereof;

(d) if reply to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor: and

(e) whether any financial help/grant would be provided to the State Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) As per the studies conducted by Forest Survey of India using Satellite imageries, out of the recorded forest of 6.37 M.ha. of Andhra Pradesh the area under actual forest cover is 4.79 M ha. giving a degraded area of 1.58 M.ha.

(c) to (e) It is proposed to reafforest 9 M.ha. of degraded forest land during Eight Five Year Plan in the country including Andhra Pradesh.

Involvement of private sector in Defence production

3135. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) is it true that private sector is sought to be involved in taking up production of defence items under the indigenisation scheme;

(b) if yes, what steps are being taken in this direction;

(c) what role is being assigned to the small scale sector under the scheme; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The capacity available in the civil sector industry including the private sector is already being utilised for the indigenous development of defence items.

(b) The steps taken in this direction are (i) capacity verification; (ii) providing technical information relating to the items to be developed; (iii) placement of *ab initio* developmental orders and providing technical guidance right through the stage of development upto submission of *proto types* and their evaluation; (iv) advances are also given in some deserving cases.